

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-12 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, and 9 are amended; and Claim 2 is canceled by the present amendment. Independent Claims 1 and 9 are amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled Claim 2. No new matter is presented.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Levergood et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,708,780, hereinafter "Levergood"), and further in view of Kirani (U. S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0032027).

The outstanding Official Action rejected Claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over Levergood in view of Kirani. The Official Action cites Levergood as disclosing the Applicant's invention with the exception of the client being a "mobile information terminal" and wherein "said unique identification information stored in said mobile information terminal and comprises information identifying a manufacturer of the mobile information terminal."¹ The Official Action cites Kirani as disclosing this claimed feature and states it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of the cited references to arrive at the Applicant's claims.

In response to this rejection, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent Claims 1 and 9 state novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references.

Amended independent Claim 1 relates to an authentication server which executes user authentication between a mobile information terminal and a content providing server connected by a data network. In advance of authentication, unique identification information

¹ Outstanding Official Action, p. 3.

stored in the mobile information terminal is registered with a customer database of an authentication server. This unique information corresponds to the terminal hardware and comprises information related to manufacturer of the mobile information terminal. The unique information is encrypted by a predetermined encryption algorithm and supplied from the mobile information terminal via the open network, and is decoded. It is then determined whether the unique identification information is registered with the customer database. When the unique information is found to be registered in the database, a notification is sent to the content providing server that service provision for the mobile information terminal is permitted.

Independent Claim 1 is further amended to recite

... presenting, to said mobile information terminal, a recommended menu ***including site access information for accessing a plurality of predetermined content providing servers;***

wherein a process in which site access information selected by a user of said mobile information terminal from said recommended menu displayed on said mobile information terminal ***is registered with the customer database in relation with the unique identification information of the mobile information terminal during the registering step.***

Independent Claim 9, when directed to an alternative statutory embodiment, is amended to recite substantially similar features. Accordingly, the arguments presented below are applicable to each of independent Claims 1 and 9.

As depicted at Figure 9, and described in the corresponding portion of the specification, the claimed configuration allows a customized menu to be set during the registration step by the user. The personalized menu, indicating preferred content providing servers, is then downloaded and displayed to the user upon authentication with the content providing server.

In addressing the above emphasized features recited in amended independent Claim 1 (previously recited in dependent Claim 2), the outstanding Official Action relies on Levergood.

Specifically, in addressing the “presenting” step recited in amended independent Claim 1, the outstanding Official Action relies on col. 8, lines 27-58 of Levergood citing the language “customized user requested pages to include personalized content.” The cited portions of Levergood, however, simply describe that the server tracks access history within a client-server session and uses this history to inform the service provider about link transversal frequencies and link paths followed by users. Such information may be used to identify the most popular links to a specific page and suggest where to insert new links to provide more direct access. Levergood also describes the content server uses this information to customize user requested pages to include personalized content based on the stored history information.

Levergood, however, fails to teach or suggest presenting a recommended *menu* including site access information *for accessing a plurality of predetermined content providing servers*, as recited in amended independent Claim 1.

Instead, as noted above, Levergood describes that the history information may be used to customize user requested pages to include personalized content, thus, the pages already requested by a user may be personalized based on the link access history corresponding to a user. Accordingly, the pages accessed by a user are modified to include personalized content, and do not constitute a *menu* indicating *a plurality of predetermined content providing servers*. Levergood, therefore, fails to teach or suggest that a *menu* is presented to a user which includes access information for accessing *a plurality of predetermined content providing servers*, as recited in amended independent Claim 1.

Amended independent Claim 1 also recites a process in which site access information selected by a user of the mobile information terminal from the recommended menu displayed

on said mobile information terminal ***is registered with said customer database in relation with the unique identification information of said mobile information terminal during the registering step.***

In addressing this claimed feature, the outstanding Official Action relies on col. 4, lines 32-42 of Levergood. This cited portion of Levergood more generally describes the process noted above. Specifically, the cited portion of Levergood describes that a user's frequency and duration of access to various pages, both uncontrolled and controlled, is monitored in a transaction log within the content server. Then, a requested page may be customized to include relevant information based on this record. Thus, Levergood describes that the user requested pages are customized based on a history corresponding to the client's access to various pages. Since this customization is performed based on a user's access history after the user has already gained access to the system, such a customization could not possibly be performed based on information submitted ***during the registration step***, as claimed.

Thus, Levergood also fails to teach or suggest a process in which site access information selected by a user of the mobile information terminal from the recommended menu displayed on the mobile information terminal ***is registered with the customer database in relation with the unique identification information of said mobile information terminal during the registering step***, as recited in amended independent Claim 1.

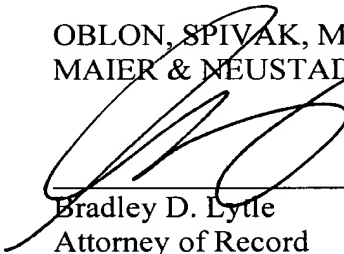
As discussed above, Levergood fails to teach or suggest the above differentiated features recited in amended independent Claim 1. Likewise, Kirani fails to remedy this deficiency, and therefore, none of the cited references, neither alone nor in combination teach or suggest Applicant's Claims 1 and 3-12 which include the above distinguished limitations by virtue of independent recitation or dependency.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 1 and 3-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1 and 3-12 is patentably distinguishing over the applied references. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Bradley D. Lytle
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 40,073

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

Andrew T. Harry
Registration No. 56,959

BDL:ATH\dt

I:\ATTY\ATH\PROSECUTION\21's\212668-US\212668US AMENDMENT DUE 11-17-06.DOC